

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 07995 061623Z

41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HEW-06 /084 W

----- 107938

R 051530Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5015

INFO DIA

USCINCSO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 7995

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, BL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANZER AND BOLIVIAN BISHOPS EXCHANGE

VIEWS ON "NEW ORDER"

1. ON DECEMBER 3, A DELEGATION HEADED BY CARDINAL MAURER AND REPRESENTING ALL OF BOLIVIA'S BISHOPS CALLED UPON PRESIDENT BANZER TO EXPRESS THE CHURCH'S CONCERN OVER ASPECTS OF THE GOB'S "NEW ORDER." THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND THE MINISTER OF COORDINATION WERE PRESENT DURING THE CALL.

2. THE BISHOPS, ACCORDING TO THEIR REPORT OF THE MEETING, EXPRESSED CONCERN IN THE FIRST PLACE FOR THE DETENTION OF TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO REFUSED TO SERVE UNDER THE OBLIGATORY CIVIL SERVICE DECREE. FURTHERMORE, THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT THIS DECREE, WHICH THEY CONSIDERED TOO DRASTIC GIVEN THE ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE COUNTRY, COULD STRIKE AT SUCH FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AS FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE OR THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE ONE'S OWN WORK. THE BISHOPS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MEASURES WHICH LIMITED FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION OR THE LEGITIMATE EXERCISE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS. THEY NOTED THAT CERTAIN GOB OFFICIALS WERE OVERLY SENSITIVE TO WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY THE CHURCH TO PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE. THEY REFERRED TO THE PRESSURE APPLIED BY CERTAIN GOB OFFICIALS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 07995 061623Z

TO ELEMENTS OF THE PRESS IN APPARENT CONTRADICTION WITH THE

PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. THEY ASKED FOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO CREATE JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED, PROMOTE DOMESTIC TRANQUILLITY, DEFEND PRIVACY AND RESPECT FOR EVERY PERSON'S RIGHT TO LIFE - ESPECIALLY AS THIS LAST MENTIONED RIGHT MIGHT BE UNDERMINED BY PROGRAMS FAVORING ABORTION OR BIRTH CONTROL. UPON DEPARTING, THE BISHOPS GAVE THE PRESIDENT A LETTER OFFICIALLY REQUESTING THAT THE GOB ISSUE A DECREE OF POLITICAL AMNESTY TO PROMOTE CHRISTIAN HARMONY AMONG BOLIVIANS.

3. PRESIDENT BANZER ASSURED THE BISHOPS THAT THE OBLIGATORY CIVIL SERVICE DECREE WOULD NOT BE APPLIED IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS. THE GOB WOULD USE THE DECREE ONLY WHEN THE STATE HAD URGENT NEED FOR THE SERVICES OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT TRADE UNIONS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO FUNCTION AGAIN AS SOON AS THE NEW LABOR CODE IS PROMULGATED, THAT IS, MORE OR LESS IN JANUARY OF NEXT YEAR. BANZER RECONFIRMED HIS SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS BUT WARNED THAT THE GOB EXPECTED PRESS REPORTS TO BE TRUE AND OBJECTIVE. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THE CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT WAS A PRIORITY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION AND THAT THE GOB AGREED WITH THE CHURCH'S POSITION ON ABORTION AND BIRTH CONTROL.

4. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS FRANK BUT CORDIAL. ALTHOUGH THE MEETING IS UNLIKELY TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN "NEW ORDER" DECREES, THE PRESIDENT DID OUTLINE LIMITS IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE OBLIGATORY CIVIL SERVICE DECREE AND DID ESTABLISH A TIME FRAME FOR THE RESUMPTION OF TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES.

STEDMAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR LAW, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAPAZ07995
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740355-0234
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741258/aaaabxtr.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BANZER AND BOLIVIAN BISHOPS EXCHANGE VIEWS ON "NEW ORDER"
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005